

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, the liberal leadership of this Congress has put themselves and the lives of our military members, our soldiers in the field, in a very difficult position. When they passed the supplemental spending bill earlier this month for the global war on terror, they only did it by loading it up with pork. It sounds like a grocery list. They have got money for spinach, for beef, for fish and for peanuts. Billions of dollars of pork. They made their Members an offer that they couldn't refuse.

They claim to support our military, but in this bill they tie the hands of that same military by instituting a timetable for withdrawal and taking the power for running the war away from the commanders in the field. The majority leader, HARRY REID, didn't help when he said he thinks the war is lost.

American citizens need to ask themselves the question: What would happen, what would happen, if we were to walk away? It is the same question our Speaker, who obviously isn't going to meet with our commanding general, also needs to ask.

Let's respect the soldiers in the field by doing our job and passing a clean budget.

GETTING ADVICE OF REAL PROFESSIONALS ON IRAQ

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, Bush, CHENEY and their Republican apologists here in Congress say "hands off their war. Leave it to the professionals."

Well, if they followed their own advice, we wouldn't be at war in Iraq. Remember CHENEY and Scooter Libby, who is on his way to prison, phonying up intelligence, overruling the intelligence and military professionals, saying there was a threat, that there were weapons of mass destruction? They didn't exist.

Then they fired General Shinseki because he had the temerity to suggest if we didn't put in 400,000 troops, there would be a massive insurgency and a civil war. They fired him. If they had not fired General Shinseki, if they followed his professional advice, our troops wouldn't be mired in the middle of a civil war; and Paul Bremer disbanding the Iraq Army, de-Baathification, against all professional military and intelligence advice.

Now the Republican lapdogs have the temerity to say "hands off Bush's war. Let the professionals run it." Well, it is time for some adults to step in here and really take advice from the professionals and get our troops out of the middle of this civil war.

COMMENDING ACTIONS BY INDIANA AUTHORITIES TO QUELL THE DISTURBANCE AT NEW CASTLE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, as the Nation looked on, once again Indiana law enforcement, State, county and city personnel, showed their professionalism and courage.

I rise today to commend the swift response by Indiana State and local authorities to quell the disturbance that began at 2:01 p.m. at New Castle Correctional Facility, at the very heart of my congressional district.

During a routine transfer from a dining hall to their cellblocks, a group of inmates removed their shirts, an officer was knocked to the ground, and the situation quickly spiraled out of control involving nearly one-third of the prison's population.

Guards quickly isolated the areas of disturbance. As the Nation looked on over the cable airwaves, backup officers arrived just 15 minutes later. The Indiana Department of Correction activated its Special Emergency Response Team and involved the State police. All offenders and the facility were secured by 4:45.

Investigations will go forward and questions will be answered, but, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of eastern Indiana, I rise to express my pride and gratitude to the law enforcement community involved, the State, the local, the city and the county, all those who ensured that this disturbance was contained, tragedy was averted, and the people of my congressional district were protected.

DEMOCRATS REFUSE TO IGNORE THE NEEDS OF THE UNINSURED AND LOOK TO EXPAND SCHIP FOR CHILDREN

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, this week is Cover the Uninsured Week. This year's focus centers on expanding health care coverage for America's children.

For 6 years, President Bush and the Republican Congress ignored our Nation's health care crisis. As a result, the number of uninsured increased by 7 million, to 47 million Americans; 9 million of them are children.

Studies show us that a child's health can be greatly improved if they have health care coverage. Children with access to health care are better prepared to learn in school and are better prepared to succeed in life.

The new Democratic Congress refuses to ignore America's uninsured, and that is why we passed a budget last month that provides a significant increase in funding of the SCHIP program. The \$50 billion increase in fund-

ing over the next 5 years would allow us to provide health care to millions of children who are currently uninsured.

THE MEDICARE HEARING ENHANCEMENT AND AUDITORY REHABILITATION ACT

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1912, the Medicare Hearing Enhancement and Auditory Rehabilitation, HEAR, Act.

H.R. 1912 will provide for Medicare coverage of hearing aids and auditory rehabilitation services. Medicare is currently specifically prohibited from paying for hearing aids. The HEAR Act repeals this prohibition and directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to determine the most appropriate manner for Medicare to provide this benefit.

Hearing problems can make it difficult to understand and follow a doctor's advice, respond to warnings and hear doorbells and alarms. Hearing problems can also make it hard to enjoy talking with friends and family. All of this can be frustrating, embarrassing and even dangerous. It makes good sense to help these people better afford devices, treatments and other services that will improve their quality of life and increase their safety.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1912.

CHANGING DIRECTION TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

(Ms. CASTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, today the House will vote on and hopefully pass the emergency supplemental bill. To the individuals who disagree with this new direction and our demand for accountability, I ask, how much longer will you continue to sanction the undermining of our national security under the Bush-Cheney policy? As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I ask this because this bill states that "no units may be deployed to Iraq unless they are fully mission capable."

What are you saying if you vote against this measure? In the Armed Services Committee, the Army Chief of Staff testified that the Bush-Cheney strategy is outstripping the means to execute it. Our ground forces in the U.S. are short of training, personnel and equipment. This is very serious, and I ask how anyone can vote against this bill and sanction the unwise Bush-Cheney course.

The risk to our Nation is serious and deepening. We must change direction, make more strategic decisions and bring our diplomatic, economic and moral forces to bear to protect our national security.